

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 /212 W

----- 061583

P 171442Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9862

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2116

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, SF

SUBJECT: UK AND FRENCH MOVES ON BUSINESS PRACTICES AND ARMS

EMBARGO

REF: PRETORIA 1870

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, IN "ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED COINCIDENCE", TWO SENIOR MEMBERS OF BRITISH LABOR GOVT. HAVE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUS LETTERS COVERING BUSINESS PRACTICES AND ARMS SALES. LETTER FROM TRADE SECRETARY PETER SHORE, PRESAGED BY EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT (SEE REFTEL), WAS SENT TO CHAIRMEN OF UK COMPANIES OPERATING IN SA AND GENERALLY ENDORSED RECOMMENDATIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY. SECOND LETTER FROM INDUSTRY SECRETARY TONY BENN REPORTEDLY STATED THERE NO RPT NO HOPE THAT UK INDUSTRIES COULD PICK UP ON ESTIMATED R 750 (\$1,121)

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TRIALISTS COULD PICK UP ON ESTIMATED R 750 (\$1,121)

MILLION WORTH OF ORDERS FOR ARMS WHICH SA EXPECTED TO PLACE
IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. LOCAL PRESS ALSO CARRYING STORIES ON REPORTED STATEMENT
BY FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE D'ESTAING THAT HE WOULD
"RESTRAIN SALE OF ARMS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY
SOUTH AFRICA." OPPONENT MITTERAND HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE CLEAR
HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT SELL ARMS TO SA.

3. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PUBLIC SAG REACTION
TO ABOVE. SAG HAS PREVIOUSLY EMPHASIZED IT APPROACHING SELF-
SUFFICIENCY IN ARMS PRODUCTION BUT IN FACT IT REMAINS DE-
PENDENT OF FOREIGN SUPPLIERS FOR SOM MAJOR ITEMS. GIVEN
DEVELOPMENTS IN PAST, THREAT OF TIGHTENED ARMS EMBARGO
MUST BE OF CONCERN THOUGH SAG HAS LITTLE OPTION OTHER THAN
TO FACE IT THROUGH. CONCERN ABOUT FOREIGN BUSINESS PRACTICES
IS CONTINUING FEATURE OF SA SCENE TO WHICH SAG HAS ADAPTED
WITH RELATIVELY GOOD GRACE.
HURD

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Message Attributes

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